



Building South Dakota's Healthcare Workforce

South Dakota Department of Health

Office of Rural Health

October 2008

OPTOMETRISTS

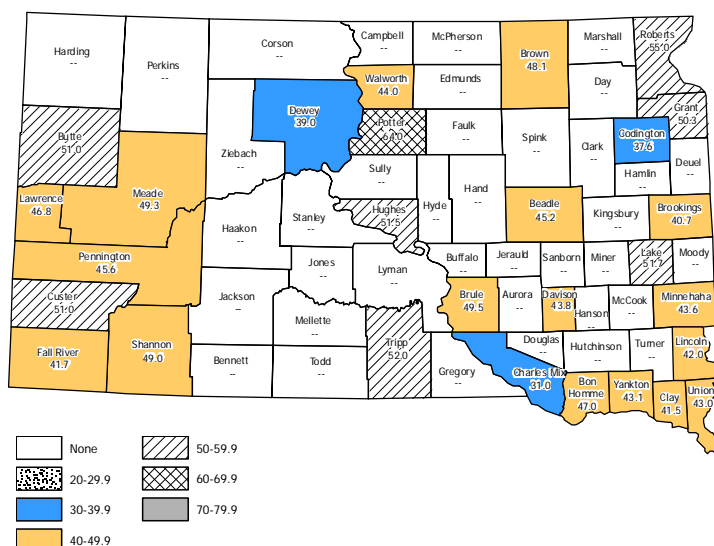
Growing concerns regarding the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in the State has prompted the creation of the South Dakota Healthcare Workforce Initiative. This initiative is a joint effort between the Departments of Education, Health and Labor, as well as the South Dakota Board of Regents. The purpose of this inter-agency project is to ensure a competent and qualified healthcare workforce that meets the needs of all South Dakotans.

According to the South Dakota Department of Labor, there is a projected increase of 25.4 percent in the number of healthcare workers needed between the years of 2006 and 2016. As healthcare facilities face this increased need in providers, they are also looking at a shrinking pool of potential replacements. In South Dakota, between 2010 and 2025, the percentage of potential workers (ages 15-64) is projected to decrease by 4.4 percent. According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, the number of high school graduates will decrease by 16.5 percent between 2001/02 and 2017/18. While the number of youth in South Dakota slowly decreases, the percentage of those of retirement age (age 64 and up) increases drastically. The South Dakota State Data Center indicates an increase of 58 percent among those of retirement age.

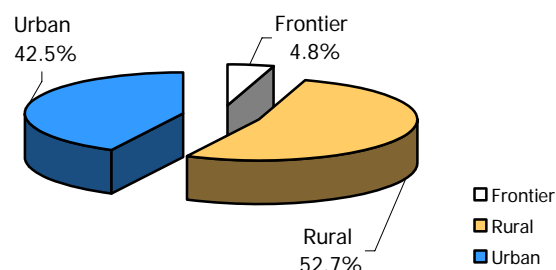
The information presented below has been compiled by the South Dakota Department of Health. This fact sheet includes information pertaining to workforce issues for optometrists. For more information contact the Department of Health at 605.773.3361.

DEMOGRAPHICS

There are currently 167 practicing optometrists in South Dakota, as of December 31st, 2007, ranging from the age of 27 to 79 years old. The map below depicts the average age by county in which optometrists practice¹.



Just over 42 percent of practicing optometrists in South Dakota currently practice in an urban community, while only 4.8 percent of optometrists practice in frontier communities¹.



The majority, 73.1 percent, of optometrists are male while 26.9 percent are female. The average age of optometrists in South Dakota is 44. Almost half, 43.7 percent, of optometrists are aged 46 and over¹.



Ensuring a competent and qualified healthcare workforce that meets the health needs of all South Dakota residents...

PROJECTED WORKER NEED

The South Dakota Department of Labor projects an increase of 24 percent in the number of optometrists needed between the years 2006 and 2016².

PERCENT OF VACANCIES AND TURNOVERS

A vacancy is defined as a budgeted position not currently filled, while a turnover is defined as the number of employees who left a facility during the fiscal year. Listed below, are the percent of vacancies and turnovers for full-time optometrists by year, which were obtained from the Health Care Professional Workforce surveys³. Please note optometry clinics were not surveyed until 2007.

Year	Percent of Vacancies	Percent of Turnovers
2003	*	*
2004	*	*
2005	*	*
2006	*	*
2007	2.8	7.8

*Optometrist data was not collected.

EDUCATION

South Dakota currently has no Doctor of Optometry programs; however, Pre-Optometry programs are offered at these schools. Augustana College in Sioux Falls, Black Hills State University in Spearfish, Dakota State University in Madison, Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota State University in Brookings, and University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

LICENSURE

Optometrists are licensed through the South Dakota Board of Optometry.

LINKS OF INTEREST

- Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow (HOTT) www.sdjobs.org/sdhott
- Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH) www.bls.gov/oco
- O*Net Link <http://online.onetcenter.org/link/summary/29-1041.00>
- South Dakota Department of Labor www.sdjobs.org
- South Dakota Board of Optometry doh.sd.gov/boards/optometry
- South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Rural Health/Recruitment doh.sd.gov/ruralhealth/recruit.aspx
- South Dakota Healthcare Workforce Center doh.sd.gov/ruralhealth/workforce
- U.S. Department of Labor www.bls.gov
- American Academy of Optometry www.aaopt.org
- American Optometric Association www.aoa.org
- National Board of Examiners in Optometry www.optometry.org

FOOTNOTES

¹ South Dakota Board of Optometry

² Labor Market Information Center, SD Department of Labor, August 2008

³ South Dakota Department of Health.

Only optometrists practicing in South Dakota included above.

Optometrists shown by county in which they practice.

Vacancy numbers are as of January 31st for the respective year.

Percent of Turnover is defined as turnover for the facility's fiscal year divided by current total budgeted positions.

Percent of Vacancies is defined as current total budgeted vacancies divided by current total budgeted positions.

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OPTOMETRISTS

SD County	Count	Average Age	SD County	Count	Average Age
Aurora	-	-	Hyde	-	-
Beadle	5	45.2	Jackson	-	-
Bennett	-	-	Jerauld	-	-
Bon Homme	2	47.0	Jones	-	-
Brookings	6	40.7	Kingsbury	-	-
Brown	10	48.1	Lake	3	51.7
Brule	2	49.5	Lawrence	8	46.8
Buffalo	-	-	Lincoln	9	42.0
Butte	1	51.0	Lyman	-	-
Campbell	-	-	Marshall	-	-
Charles Mix	1	31.0	McCook	-	-
Clark	-	-	McPherson	-	-
Clay	4	41.5	Meade	3	49.3
Codington	9	37.6	Mellette	-	-
Corson	-	-	Miner	-	-
Custer	1	51.0	Minnehaha	43	43.6
Davison	6	43.8	Moody	-	-
Day	-	-	Pennington	28	45.6
Deuel	-	-	Perkins	-	-
Dewey	1	39.0	Potter	1	64.0
Douglas	-	-	Roberts	1	55.0
Edmunds	-	-	Sanborn	-	-
Fall River	3	41.7	Shannon	1	49.0
Faulk	-	-	Spink	-	-
Grant	3	50.3	Stanley	-	-
Gregory	-	-	Sully	-	-
Haakon	-	-	Todd	-	-
Hamlin	-	-	Tripp	1	52.0
Hand	-	-	Turner	-	-
Hanson	-	-	Union	3	43.0
Harding	-	-	Walworth	1	44.0
Hughes	4	51.5	Yankton	7	43.1
Hutchinson	-	-	Ziebach	-	-

Note: Only optometrists practicing in South Dakota included above.

Optometrists shown by county in which they practice.

Optometrist numbers are as of December 18th, 2007.

Source: South Dakota Board of Optometry

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